



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Schell Field Office

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Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html)



In Reply Refer To:  
8300 (NVL02000)

### DECISION

South Steptoe Travel Management  
Plan

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Decision Record

DOI-BLM-NV-L020-2011-0015-EA

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-L020-2011-0015-EA, and have made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the South Steptoe Travel Management Plan. Based on that review and the record as a whole, I approve Alternative F: Proposed Action.

### RATIONALE:

- 1) The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan signed in August of 2008. Section 1.4 of the Environmental Assessment documents the conformance review.
- 2) The Proposed Action is consistent with all other federal, state, local, and tribal policies and plans to the maximum extent possible.
- 3) The Proposed Action will respond to the proliferation of unplanned routes within the South Steptoe Travel Management Area. The proposed action will provide a network of routes that balances the recreation and access needs of the public, private landowners, and affected agencies with the management of the overall health of the landscape.
- 4) The Proposed Action acknowledges that the close proximity and accessibility of the abundance of public land in White Pine County is an important aspect of the local character and designates approximately 69% of the existing routes as either open or limited for motorized travel.
- 5) Habitat for many wildlife species, including big game, sage grouse, and migratory birds, will be increased in the long run due to a decrease in fragmentation, helping to support viable populations in the area well into the future as a result of the proposed action.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:**

The BLM asked White Pine County to appoint a group of interested members of the public to help develop three alternatives that would be analyzed by the interdisciplinary team of BLM specialists as part of the NEPA process. The group's membership was representative of a variety of resource areas to ensure a broad spectrum of input. The BLM hosted committee meetings beginning in the Spring of 2009. There were approximately 30 bimonthly meetings until the final recommendations were made in June 2010. These recommendations were included as Alternatives B, C, and D in the EA.

The Preliminary EA was made available to the public on May 1, 2011 and comments were accepted through June 30, 2011. A display with maps of each of the alternatives and additional information was set up at the White Pine County Library to increase public awareness of the proposal. Four public meetings were held at the Ely District BLM Office throughout the comment period. Comments received during the comment period are addressed in Appendix C of the EA.

**APPEALS:**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board), U. S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Hearings and Appeals, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. If an appeal is taken, a notice of appeal must be filed at the Bureau of Land Management at the below address within 30 days of either of receipt of the decision if served a copy of the document, or otherwise within 30 days of the date of the decision. If sent by United States Postal Service, the notice of appeal must be sent to the following address:

Bureau of Land Management  
Ely District Office  
HC 33 Box 33500  
Ely, NV 89301

The appeal may include a statement of reasons at the time the notice of appeal is filed, or the statement of reasons may be filed within 30 days of filing this appeal. At the same time the original documents are filed with this office, copies of the notice of appeal, statement of reasons, and all supporting documentation also must be sent to the U.S. DOI Solicitor at the following address:

Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2753  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1890

If a statement of reasons is filed separately from the notice of appeal, it also must be sent to the following location within 30 days after the notice of appeal was filed:

Interior Board of Land Appeals

Office of Hearings and Appeals  
4015 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22203

This Decision will remain in effect during the appeal unless a petition for Stay is granted. If the appellant wishes to file a petition pursuant to regulations at 43 CFR 4.21 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that the appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany the notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. If the appellant requests a stay, the appellant has the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

### **Standards for Obtaining a Stay**

Except as otherwise provided by law or by other pertinent regulation, a Petition for a Stay of a Decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Approved by:



Mary D'Aversa  
Field Manager  
Schell Field Office

Feb 10, 2012

Date